



"I have a mandate from our President to focus on medical preparedness, including homeland security, the war on terrorism, and improving public health."

The **Medical Reserve Corps** is critical to our many national preparedness efforts."

Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona
Surgeon General
United States Public Health Service

The **Medical Reserve Corps** Program Office is based in the Office of the United States Surgeon General. It functions as a clearinghouse for information and best practices to help communities establish, implement and maintain **MRC** units across the nation. The **MRC** Program Office hosts a website, sponsors an annual leadership conference, provides technical assistance and coordinates with local, state, regional and national organizations and agencies to help communities achieve their local visions for public health and emergency preparedness. **MRC** Regional Coordinators, stationed nationwide in the 10 HHS Regional Offices, also facilitate and encourage coordination between **MRC** units.



Medical Reserve Corps



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**Strengthening the Public
Health Infrastructure
and Improving
Emergency Preparedness**

The **Medical Reserve Corps** program is sponsored by the Office of the Surgeon General, in cooperation with the White House's USA Freedom Corps and the Department of Homeland Security's Citizen Corps.



citizen★**corps**

USA
Freedom Corps
Make a Difference. Volunteer.

Medical Reserve Corps

National Priorities...Meeting Local Needs

About the Medical Reserve Corps

- ❖ The **Medical Reserve Corps** (MRC) was founded after President Bush's 2002 State of the Union Address, in which he asked all Americans to volunteer in support of their country. **MRC** is a specialized component of Citizen Corps, a national network of volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown security. Citizen Corps, along with the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Peace Corps are all part of the President's USA Freedom Corps, which promotes volunteerism and service throughout the nation.
- ❖ **MRC** units are community-based and function as a way to locally organize and utilize volunteers – medical professionals and others – who want to donate their time and expertise to promote healthy living throughout the year and to prepare for and respond to emergencies. **MRC** volunteers supplement existing local emergency and public health resources.
- ❖ **MRC** volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and epidemiologists. Other community members, such as interpreters, chaplains, office workers, and legal advisors, can fill other vital support positions.

Organizing an MRC unit

Every community is different, so every community will approach the task of establishing its **MRC** unit differently. General guidelines covering many key issues to assist with planning are available on the **MRC** website, www.medicalreservecorps.gov. You will also find sample brochures, presentations, and information documents created by other **MRC** units.

Communities also find out about promising practices by exchanging information and their lessons learned on the **MRC** Message Board. **MRC** communities nationwide are implementing innovative ideas on strengthening their region's everyday public health infrastructure while increasing emergency preparedness through teambuilding activities and exercises such as flu clinics and disaster drills.

Any government agency or not-for profit organization can sponsor an **MRC** unit, including health departments, boards of health, faith-based organizations, emergency management agencies, universities, and Citizen Corps Councils. Partnerships are key to the success and sustainability of the **MRC**, so leaders are strongly encouraged to establish a strong community network with response partners, government officials, and even local businesses to help identify needs, negotiate differences, work out conflicts, and optimize shared resources.

What Can MRC Volunteers Do?

Support local public health initiatives and the goals of the Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2010, while advancing the priorities of the Surgeon General:

- ❖ Promoting disease prevention
- ❖ Improving health literacy
- ❖ Eliminating health disparities
- ❖ Enhancing public health preparedness

Assist local hospitals and health departments with surge personnel needs.

Participate in mass prophylaxis and vaccination exercises and community disaster drills.

Train with local emergency response partners.

And more...

